

MATAGUAY 2-MILE LOOP TRAIL ROUTE FROM SILVA LODGE CLOCKWISE AROUND CAMP

This describes a 2-mile loop through camp that starts at Silva Lodge.

This hike starts at the north side of **Silva Lodge** (0.0). Here a new multi-trail junction has been developed. A broad trail goes up to the staff Parking lot; in the other direction a trail drops to Silva Deck; a 60 degree right from the trail to Silva Deck would put you on the Spine Trail, which goes to the Bobcat Campsite. (This is the trail you will return on.) The North Side Trail comes past the steps that go down to the north side of Silva Lodge and crosses through the trail junction. Our trail starts here and continues east.

Shortly it comes to another trail junction. The left branch goes up to the staff's lounge. Take the right branch as it curves around the slope. Keep to the left at an undeveloped trail junction in the Manzanita thicket (this is where the North Side Trail will eventually continue beneath the stage and climb to the road). Climb up to the **Baden Powell Campfire circle**. Climb up the steps to the **Dining Hall**. (0.1) (You should be able to get water and use restrooms here.)

From the Dining Hall, go to the telephone pole at right rear of the building. Find the Blackfoot/Slant Bridge trail here (It is marked with a big sign in the back of the campfire bowl.) Follow this trail from above the campfire bowl as it descends to cross the paved road (0.1). Cross the road on the north side of the Kiosk and follow this trail as it contours across the old rifle range road. Soon you come to the dirt road that goes to the Pawnee campsite. Just past this road is a trail junction, from which a trail descends to the Blackfoot Fort Bridge. Continue on the upper trail, past a sign about the Nature Den, to another trail junction just short of the Hopi Campsite (0.3).

Turn half right and descend to cross a dirt road to get to the Nature Den. Pass this building on the right side and follow the Slant Bridge Trail Signs. They will direct you to the old Blackfoot Reservoir. Follow the fence around the right side of this reservoir. Just past the reservoir, cross the dirt road and look for the trail to the left side of an old pumphouse. This trail will take you down to the Slant Bridge. Cross the bridge and climb to a junction with the Spine Trail.

Turn left and follow this trail up to a paved road. Turn left on the dirt road that joins the paved road here and follow the dirt road as it passes behind the Hog Barn, Trail Tools Shed and the Old Commissary (now called ComSci). On the far side of ComSci there are some restrooms. You can usually get water here and sometimes the restrooms are functional.

Back on the dirt road behind ComSci, continue past the stock pens to the passage between the barn and the riding rink. Take this passage to a trail on the far side of the paved road. It leads up to the 3 Mile Loop Trail, which you will follow to the Blackfoot Fort Bridge. This trail crosses the paved road in front of ComSci and again below the tent barn. It goes around the south side of Mountain Man Meadow.

Soon you are traveling on the remains of the old road through camp as it enters an open portion of Mountain Man Meadow. Follow this road grade as it swings around the south side of Mountain Man Meadow and fades into a power line trail that leads you to a crossing of the paved road. Cross the paved road and continues through the back of the chapel to the Blackfoot Fort Bridge.

Cross the bridge and turn left. Climb up to the junction with a use trail just as the current trail exits an area of nice trees. Turn left on this trail and follow it through the bottom of various Blackfoot campsites. Eventually it turns down the hill. Look for blue flagging here on both sides of the trail. This is where the Spine Trail will eventually be relocated when we are able to get material for a bridge to cross the wash to your right. At the blue flag line, turn right and cross the small wash and climb up to the paved road.

Take the trail on the other side of this road to a trail junction. The trail that goes straight ahead will take you to the campsites near Bullfrog and Kangaroo Rat. The trail that makes a half left will take you past Bobcat to Silva Lodge. Take it and climb to a latrine, which you go past on the uphill side and pick up the Spine Trail as it contours through camp past the Cardiac Hill Trail. Behind the Trading Post there is a trail that branches off the Spine Trail to the left to the Silva Deck. If you keep on the main trail it will take you back to the junction where this hike started. You can continue on past the Lodge and follow this trail to the Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, Hawk, Bat and Owl campsites.

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